

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 19-29 and amend claim 10. No new matter is believed to be introduced as a result of the aforementioned claim amendment. The following list of claims replaces all previous claim listings in this case.

1. **(Original)** A coupler comprising:
an optical fiber receiving structure; and
a fiber stop attached to said receiving structure; and
wherein said fiber stop has an index of refraction approximately the same as the index of refraction of a core of said optical fiber.
2. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 1, wherein said fiber stop is a window.
3. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 2, wherein the window comprises a glass material.
4. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 2, wherein the window comprises a plastic material.
5. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 1, wherein said fiber stop is a lens.
6. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens comprises a glass material.
7. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens comprises a plastic material.
8. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens is an aspherical lens.
9. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens is a spherical lens.

10. **(Currently amended)** A means for coupling comprising:
means for receiving an optical fiber;
means for stopping a received optical fiber, ~~attached to said means for receiving an optical fiber;~~
and
wherein said means for stopping a received optical fiber has implements an index of refraction
approximately equal to an index of refraction of the received optical fiber.
11. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 10, wherein said means for stopping is a window.
12. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 11, wherein the window comprises a glass material.
13. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 11, wherein the window comprises a plastic material.
14. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 10, wherein said means for stopping is a lens.
15. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens comprises a glass material.
16. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens comprises a plastic material.
17. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens is an aspherical lens.
18. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens is a spherical lens.
19. – 29. **(Canceled)**
30. **(Original)** A coupler comprising:
a sleeve;
a window situated at a first end of said sleeve;
and a lens situated at a surface of said window opposite of a surface of said window proximate to
said sleeve.

31. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 30, wherein:
said sleeve has a diameter so that an optical fiber can be inserted with an end stopped by the surface of said window proximate to said sleeve; and
said window has an index of refraction about the same as the index of refraction of optical fiber.
32. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 31, wherein said lens is a ball lens.
33. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 31, wherein said lens is formed on the surface of said window.
34. **(Original)** The coupler of claim 33, further comprising a light source proximate to said lens.